

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, UNV, EAID

SUBJECT: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UN VOLUNTEERS (ITEM 5)

REF: GENEVA A-173

1. SUMMARY: WHILE EVALUATION REPORT (DP/269) WAS CENTRAL TO PRESENTATIONS BY ADMINISTRATOR AND COORDINATOR, DISCUSSION IN PLENARY CONCENTRATED ON INTEGRATION OF VOLUNTEERS INTO UNDP PROGRAMMING, CAREFUL SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF VOLUNTEERS AND FUTURE FINANCING. INFORMAL WORKING GROUP, BUILDING UPON U.S. DRAFT, PRESENTED CLEAR MANDATE FOR EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, ITS INTEGRATION INTO MIX OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR COUNTRY PROJECTS AND ITS FUNDING OUT OF COUNTRY PROGRAM MONIES. ILL-CONSIDERED ATTEMPT BY ADMINISTRATION TO INSIST UPON FULLER INTERIM FINANCING FROM REGULAR UNDP RESOURCES WAS BEATEN DOWN. DESPITE SUB-ROSA ROW OVER FUNDING, UNV CLEARLY ENJOYS FIRM SUPPORT OF ALL DONOR COUNTRIES.

2. ADMINISTRATION POSITION: AS HE HAD DONE DURING INFORMAL BRIEFING AND LUNCHEON FOR DONORS, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR BRADFORD MORSE LENT HIS PRESTIGE AND SUPPORT TO UNV WITH BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT ON ITEM 6. DEPARTING COORDINATOR JOHN GORDON GAVE CONCISE RUN-DOWN ON UNV ACTIVITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA. HE REPORTED INSTALLATION OF COMPUTERIZED ROSTER SYSTEM AND IMPROVEMENTS IN BRIEFING AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS. DESPITE COMPETITION OF ASSOCIATE AND BILATERAL EXPERTS, DEMAND FOR UNVS HAS INCREASED. SOME VOLUNTEERS ARE BEING FUNDED BY HOME GOVERNMENTS (U.S. FRG, NETHERLANDS) TO BOLSTER PROGRAM.

3. FINANCING: ONCE AGAIN, FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS LOOMED LARGE IN DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS. GORDON REPORTED THAT \$880,000 HAS

BEEN PLEDGED FOR 1977 TO SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND (SVF) WHICH INCLUDES FOUR NEW CONTRIBUTORS, TWO OF THEM LDCS. HE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT FUTURE LACK OF FUNDS WOULD FORCE SHIFT IN UNV PLACEMENTS TO BETTER-OFF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. GORDON, AS HAD MORSE, URGED COUNCIL TO MODIFY ITS POSITION AT 22ND SESSION CALLING FOR TOTAL FUNDING BY JANUARY 1979 FROM COUNTRY IPFS (INDICATING PLANNING FIGURE, I.E. SUM ALLOTTED TO EACH RECIPIENT COUNTRY FOR THE 5-YEAR PROGRAMMING CYCLE) TO ALLOW EXTENSIVE "BRIDGING" FUNDS FROM SVF, REGULAR RESOURCES, AND THE SPECIAL MEASURES FUND TO 1982. COORDINATOR DESIGNATE HIKMAT NABULSI AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR JOHN OLVER PRESSED THIS ISSUE HOME DURING NEGOTIATIONS.

5. DEBATE: TWELVE COUNCIL MEMBERS SPOKE IN PLENARY. DONORS PLUS BRAZIL QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR "BRIDGING" FINANCING, URGED UNDP TO EFFECT GREATER INTEGRATION OF VOLUNTEERS INTO COUNTRY PROGRAMMING AND CALLED FOR BETTER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES IN RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION AND PLACEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS. FRG ANNOUNCED PLEDGE OF DM 300,000 TO S.V.F. CANADA, SUPPORTED BY UK, PROPOSED USE OF REGULAR UNDP RESOURCES ON A DECLINING SCALE OVER 4 YEARS REMAINING IN 2ND PROGRAMMING CYCLE (I.E. UNTIL 1982). SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (SWEDEN SPEAKING FOR NORDICS, SWISS, U.S.) STATED THAT UNVS SHOULD NOT BE COMPARED TO ASSOCIATE EXPERTS OR BILATERAL VOLUNTEERS AS WAS FREQUENTLY DONE IN EVALUATION REPORT (DP/269). THREE LDCS - IRAN, NIGER AND YEMEN - SPOKE BRIEFLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVOR OF ALL MEASURES TO RENDER UNVS "FREE" TO HOST COUNTRIES.

6. NEGOTIATIONS: PRESENTED WITH SECRETARIAT DRAFT DECISION DEVOTED TO FUTURE FINANCING AND INCLUDING THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR USE OF REGULAR FUNDS ON A DECLINING SCALE, DONORS FORMED AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP UNDER DUTCH LEADERSHIP WHICH USED AS ITS STARTING POINT A U.S. DRAFT, FRG MODIFIED FURTHER THE FUNDING FORMULA SO AS TO REDUCE TOTAL FROM REGULAR SOURCES FROM PROPOSED \$4 MILLION TO \$2.5 MILLION OVER 4 YEARS.

7. IRANIAN EFFORT TO ARGUE CASE FOR SECRETARIAT (NABULSI AND OLVER) ENCOUNTERED STIFF RESISTANCE FROM CANADA, NORDICS, FRG AND U.S. AS DONORS INSISTED THAT UNV BECOME AN INTEGRATED PART OF UNDP RATHER THAN SEPARATELY-FUNDED FILIP TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. SECRETARIAT FINALLY SAW THE LIGHT AND ASKED ONLY FOR A PARAGRAPH APPEALING FOR GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL VOLUNTARY FUND.

8. CONCLUSION: NEGOTIATIONS PROVIDED USEFUL CATHARSIS WITH DONORS MAKING CLEAR THEIR POSITION TO NEW UNV TEAM OF NABULSI AND OLVER. DESPITE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT, DONORS RECORDED THEIR FULL SUPPORT FOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND BELIEF THAT THIS VALUABLE HUMAN RESOURCE SHALL FIGURE

MORE PROMINENTLY IN UNDP COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTIVITY.

9. TEXT OF DECISION ON UN VOLUNTEERS SENT SEPARATELY.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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